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## The Four Square Challenge of Our Opportunity.

BY REV. S. M. ZWEMER, D.D.

A MISSIONARY of the American Board recently made the remark, "How fortunate your denomination is that although it is small in numbers it yet has a successful mission work in four fields that are so typical and of such unprecedented opportunity."

Has it ever occurred to you that this is a remarkable fact and that there is scarcely a single denomination numerically as small as ours which has mission work in four fields of such diverse and up-to-date interest? In India, China, Japan and

Arabia we stand face to face before the four greatest non-christian religious systems, and therefore the four great missionary problems, the four great systems of non-christian philosophy, and four fields each of which is decidedly typical in the onward march of the awakening Orient. Nor is it without significance that in each of those fields we hold strikingly strategical points by the laws of comity in conjunction with other denominations.

A study of the last report of the Board will bring out each of these points into a paragraph. Well may we sing with the psalmist, "The lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places and ours is a goodly heritage." Shall we meet the challenge of these opportunities? Is not the evangelization of these four fields a task large enough to enlist all our enthusiasm and to call for the full measure of intercession and sacrificial obedience? If each member of the Reformed Church adopts the mission

policy outlined by our General Synod, which contemplates carrying the Gospel to everyone of the thirteen millions for whom we are responsible in these fields, the unfinished task will become the completed achievement. Then, and not till then, will our denomination be able to repeat after her Lord and Master, "We have glorified Thee on earth; we have finished the work which Thou gavest us to do."

But if we do not stand four square before these opportunities and fail in our divinely appointed trust, will not our privilege become our peril and the favor which God has bestowed upon us turned in our condemnation?

This year of all years in the history of our Board will decide the issue of the Forward Movement. The educational opportunity in Amoy is unprecedented. The opportunities for reaching the villages in India are greater than ever before. The problem

of our missions in Japan calls for the very best of men and of prayer. And our attack on the cradle and stronghold of Islam should not fail for lack of reinforcements. The expansion of the work in each of our fields is awaiting the expansion of our hearts and liberality here at home.

Is your missionary policy this year to be four square? Are you planning to interest your church in each of these four fields so that they may be up to date, up to the mark, not castaways and back numbers in the sight of God? Will your prayers plead four square the needs of the work in Asia and intercede for the souls of those thirteen millions for whom God has made us responsible? Will you give a four square offering and give everyone of our mission fields at least a taste of the greatness of your liberality?

## Opportunity.

“ This, I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream :  
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain :  
And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged  
A furious battle, and men yelled, and swords  
Shocked upon swords and shields. A prince's banner  
Wavered, then staggerd backward, hemmed by foes.  
A craven hung along the battle's edge,  
And thought, ‘ Had I a sword of keener steel,  
That blue blade that the King's son bears, but this  
Blunt thing ! ’ he snapt and flung it from his hand,  
And lowering crept away and left the field.  
Then came the King's son, wounded, sore bestead,  
And weaponless, and saw the broken sword,  
Hilt-buried in the dry and trodden sand,  
And ran and snatched it, and with battle-shout  
Lifted afresh he hewed his enemy down,  
And saved a great cause that heroic day.”

—E. R. SILL.

WOMAN'S BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, R. C. A.  
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